

^{L.}
OBSERVATIONS
ON SOME PARTS OF
NATURAL HISTORY:

TO WHICH IS PREFIXED

AN ACCOUNT OF SEVERAL REMARKABLE VESTIGES
OF AN ANCIENT DATE, WHICH HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED
IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF NORTH AMERICA.

P A R T I.

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Well then may it be inferred, that there are large chasms in the annals of many countries; and that we have obtained but an imperfect acquaintance with the fortune of governments, and the vicissitudes of the species.

DUNBAR.

L O N D O N:

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C. DILLY, IN THE POULTRY.

TO
WILLIAM BARTON, ESQ;
OF
PHILADELPHIA,
THE FOLLOWING LITTLE WORK
IS INSCRIBED BY
HIS FRIEND AND BROTHER,
THE AUTHOR.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE following pages are submitted to the *Public*, with the greatest diffidence. They are the production of a very young man, and were written chiefly as a recreation from the laborious studies of *medicine*, during a bad state of health; the generous critic will, therefore, he flatters himself, correct the errors of this first effort with candour.

The four parts relative to *Natural History*, which will complete the work in one volume, octavo, will be embellished with several elegant plates, and will be put to the press in a few months: the pages now given to the public, although entitled, Part First, form a separate work of themselves, having no connection with *Natural History*.

The author returns his thanks to Mr. William Tilton, of *Philadelphia*, who politely favoured him with the accurate plan and description of the remains near the rivers *Ohio* and *Muskingum*, which form the most curious part of this work.

INTRO-

INTRODUCTION

TO

PART FIRST.

IT is fortunate for mankind that America was discovered at a period, when the spirit for observation and inquiry had considerably recovered from the lethargy of several centuries: it is fortunate too, that some of the first visitors of this western world were men, who to the motives of ambition and interest, which influenced them, added not a small portion of the philosophical knowledge of their times: on the arrival, therefore, of the Europeans in America, the customs and the manners of the natives were noted with accuracy, so that the histories which have been transmitted to us, even from that early æra, are presents truly valuable and curious.

B

But the history of all the nations of America, if we except that of the empires of Peru and Mexico alone, prior to the time of their discovery, is consigned to an oblivion, from which it is impossible ever to recover it.

Nor should we be surprised at the immense chasm in the annals of these numerous nations, if we consider but for a moment the state of society among them, both at the time when they were first visited by the Europeans, and even at the present day [A]. They were dispersed throughout every part of the continent: they were ignorant of every art which did not either mediately or immediately conduce to the few necessities of their life; the art of forming a bow, an arrow, or a hatchet,—the practice of exciting fire by the friction of pieces of wood,—the construction of a canoe, or a cabin,—and lastly, the cultivation of a solitary vegetable, the maize, embraced the small circle of their knowledge [B].

The only channel then, through which we can convey truth to posterity, that of letters, was entirely unknown to all these savage tribes, nor could the tradition of their *sages*

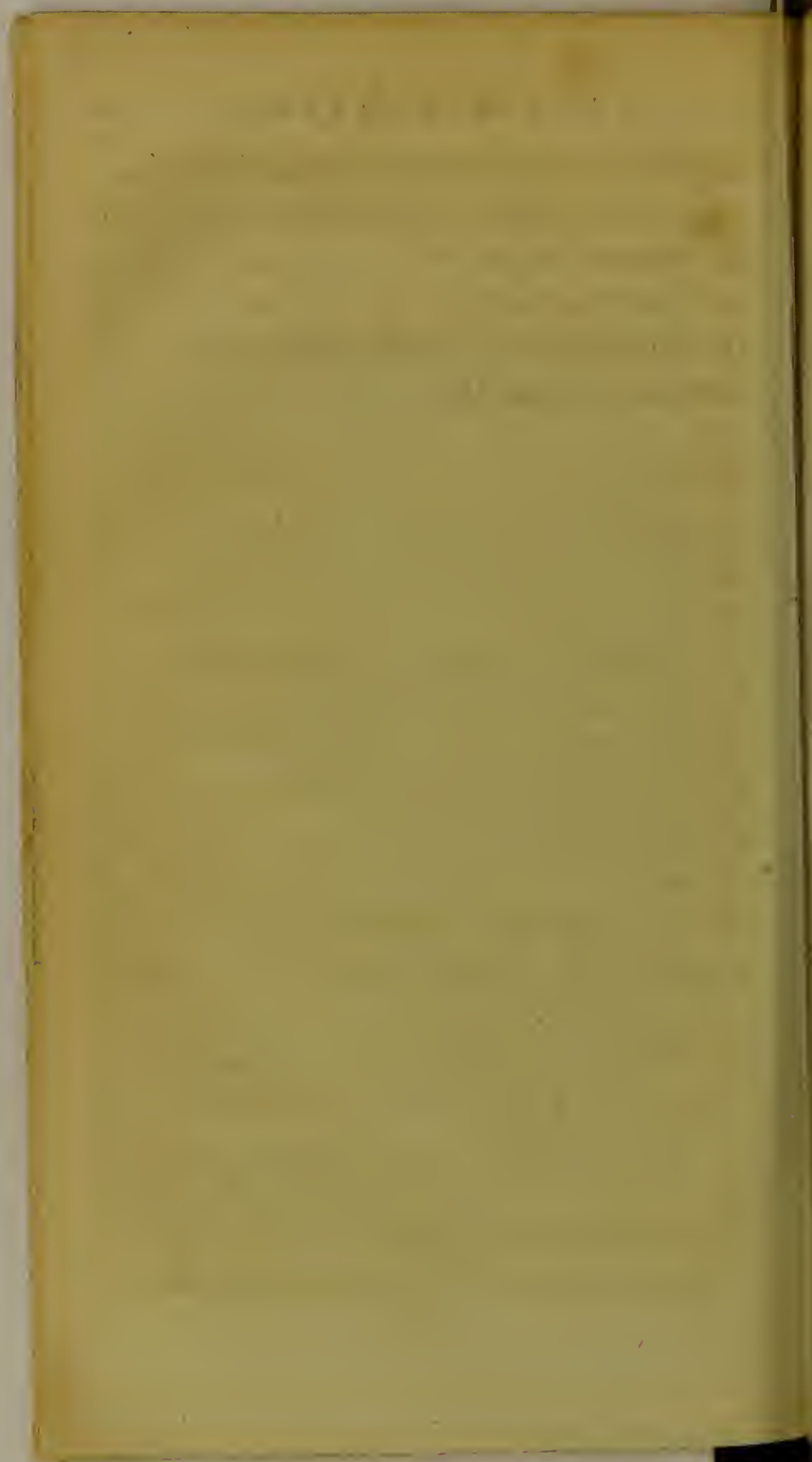
preserve even a wretched remnant of their history for more than a century, or at most two centuries, prior to the period of *their* manhood [C]: *they* were content to excite a spirit of emulation among their young men, by a relation of *their own* achievements in war, and of *their* success in fishing, and in the chase; but the achievements and the success of *their fathers* were forgotten, not from the imperfect nature of tradition only, but also from that vanity, which, if not peculiar to the tribes of America, was at least more prevalent among them than among savage nations in general [D].

But although we are thus limited in our inquiries into the ancient history of the American nations, yet we may indulge in the conjecture, that they, like other nations, had experienced the vicissitudes of fortune. The great number of these nations,—the variety of languages among them,—their animosities, and almost continual wars,—the diversity of customs, of manners, and of religion, all tend to establish this conjecture into certainty.

Notwithstanding all the labours of the learned, we are still much in the dark concerning the origin of the American nations. It has, perhaps, been the misfortune of those who have amused themselves with inquiries into this very interesting and curious subject, that they have peopled this vast continent from one or a few, when it is more than probable it has been peopled from a thousand sources;—but what has hitherto been unaccomplished by the ingenuity and the labours of the European, is, perhaps, reserved for the genius of some future American: it will at least be in his power to dissipate a part of the gloom, in which the present subject is involved: his country, which has lately taken her station (a respectable station) among the empires of the world, is an ample field for the exertion of his talents,—let him then improve them, let him mark with attention the footsteps of civilization throughout the continent—let him learn the languages of the natives, compare them with those of the nations of the old world, and his labours will be amply rewarded.—It is thus only he can redeem the history of the

INTRODUCTION. ▼

origin of a people, some of whom have, probably, once made a distinguished figure on the theatre of the world, and who, at present, tinged as they are with the vices of the Europeans, do not detract from the character of mankind [E].



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SECTION I.

THE late Mr. Kalm, whose labours have been so successfully employed in the illustration of the Natural History of those parts of North-America, through which he travelled, is, I believe, the first person that has mentioned, or described any thing like the relicts or vestiges of an ancient cultivation in that continent. The account which he has given us of the discovery, &c. of these vestiges, is so curious, and is delivered with so much perspicuity and simplicity, that I cannot avoid making use of his own words. “ Some
 “ years before I came into Canada, (says this
 “ intelligent naturalist) the then governor-
 “ general, *Chevalier de Beauharnois*, gave
 “ Mr. *De Verandrier* an order to go from
 “ Canada, with a number of people, on an
 “ expedition across *North America* to the
 “ South-Sea, in order to examine, how far

“ those two places are distant from each
 “ other, and to find out, what advantages
 “ might accrue to *Canada*, or *Louisiana*, from
 “ a communication with that ocean. They
 “ set out on horseback from *Montreal*, and
 “ went as much due west as they could,
 “ on account of the lakes, rivers, and moun-
 “ tains, which fell in their way. As they
 “ came far into the country, beyond many
 “ nations, they sometimes met with large
 “ tracts of land, free from wood, but co-
 “ vered with a kind of very tall grass, for the
 “ space of some days journey [F]. Many of
 “ these fields were every where covered
 “ with furrows, as if they had been ploughed
 “ and sown formerly.—It is to be observed,
 “ (continues Mr. Kalm) that the nations,
 “ which now inhabit *North America*, could
 “ not cultivate the land in this manner,
 “ because they never made use of horses,
 “ oxen, ploughs, or any instruments of hus-
 “ bandry, nor had they ever seen a plough
 “ before the *Europeans* came to them. In
 “ two or three places, at a considerable
 “ distance from each other, our travellers
 “ met with the impressions of the feet of

“ grown people and children in a rock ;
 “ but this seems to have been no more than
 “ a *lufus naturæ*. When they came far to
 “ the west, where, to the best of their know-
 “ ledge, no *Frenchmen*, or *European* had ever
 “ been, they found in one place in the
 “ woods, and again on a large plain, great
 “ pillars of stone, leaning on each other.
 “ The pillars consisted of one single stone
 “ each, and the *Frenchmen* could not but
 “ suppose, that they had been erected by
 “ human hands. Sometimes they have found
 “ such stones laid upon one another, and, as
 “ it were, formed into a wall. In some of
 “ those places where they found such stones,
 “ they could not find any other sorts of
 “ stones. They have not been able to dis-
 “ cover any characters, or writing, upon any
 “ of these stones, though they have made a
 “ very careful search after them. At last
 “ they met with a large stone, like a pillar,
 “ and in it a smaller stone was fixed, which
 “ was covered on both sides with unknown
 “ characters. This stone, which was about
 “ a foot of *French* measure in length, and
 “ between four or five inches broad, they

“ broke loose, and carried to *Canada* with
 “ them, from whence it was sent to *France*,
 “ to the Secretary of State, the Count of
 “ *Maurepas*.”*

Mr. Kalm further observes †, that this stone had been examined by several Jesuits, who had *unanimously* given it as their opinion, that the characters on it were exactly similar to those, which in the accounts authors have given us of *Tataria*, are denominated *Tatarian characters* [G].

How far the accuracy and the judgment of these gentlemen are to be depended on, I am unable to determine: if this stone is still preserved, it would, perhaps, be worthy the attention of some industrious antiquary, to examine into the truth of the Jesuits assertion; but I fear, notwithstanding the curiosity, if not the importance of the subject, no one will be at the pains of inquiring into it. Hitherto, at least, the few scat-

* Travels into *North America*, by *Peter Kalm*, vol. III.
 p. 123, 4, & 5.

† P. 125 & 6.

tered facts of travellers, concerning *American Antiquities*, have been passed over either in contempt, or with neglect. They appear to have attracted the attention, so far as I know, of one writer only *, who, in his *Essays on the History of Mankind in rude and cultivated ages*, has drawn from them inferences of some magnitude and importance †.

But whether the inferences which he has drawn, are not of too much importance,—whether the elegant and ingenious author has not carried his imagination to a period of time, much antecedent to the construction of these *American monuments*, and whether he has not supposed an unnecessary degree of greatness and refinement among the ancient nations of the new world, I leave to the learned to determine.

Unaccustomed therefore as I am to researches of this kind, the humble business of relating facts will better besit me.—I will attempt then to check the speculative spirit of the young man; I will be content to

* Dr. Dunbar, † See p. 185, 6, 7, & 8.

appear the faithful narrator, and I will leave those, who may honour this little work with a reading to draw their own conclusions ; each, it is probable, will think differently on the subject ; my opinion then, even though I were capable of forming one, would not only be useless, but impertinent.

But to return to my subject: the late Mr. Carver, in his *Travels through the interior Parts of North America*, informs us, that he had met with the ruins of an ancient fortification on the shore of the river Mississippi, *some miles below Lake Pepin*. Mr. Carver never made a drawing of this curious antiquity, but his description conveys a tolerable idea of it. On a level, open plain, he observed a partial elevation, that had the appearance of an intrenchment ; it was covered with grass, but he could nevertheless perceive that it had formerly been a breast-work about four feet high, and sufficiently capacious to cover five thousand men.* “ Its
“ form, says he, was somewhat circular, and
“ its flanks reached to the river. Though
“ much defaced by time, every angle was

* It extended (to use his own words) “ the best part of a mile.”

“ distinguishable, and appeared as regular,
 “ and fashioned with as much military skill,
 “ as if planned by Vauban himself. The
 “ ditch was not visible, but I thought on
 “ examining more curiously, that I could
 “ perceive there certainly had been one.
 “ From its situation also, I am convinced
 “ that it must have been designed for this
 “ purpose. It fronted the country, and the
 “ rear was covered by the river; nor was
 “ there any rising ground for a considerable
 “ way, that commanded it; a few straggling
 “ oaks were alone to be seen near it. In
 “ many places small tracks were worn across
 “ it by the feet of the elks and deer, and
 “ from the depth of the bed of earth by
 “ which it was covered, I was able to draw
 “ certain conclusions of its great antiquity*.

“ To shew (continues our traveller) that
 “ this description is not the offspring of a
 “ heated imagination, or the chimerical
 “ tale of a mistaken traveller, I find on en-

* Mr. Carver has not, however, specified the real
 age of these *American ruins*:—an unpardonable neglect,
 since he acknowledges he was able to draw certain con-
 clusions on the subject.

“ quiry since my return, that Monf. St.
 “ Pierre, and feveral travellers have, at
 “ different times, taken notice of fimilar ap-
 “ pearances, on which they have formed
 “ the fame conjectures, but without examin-
 “ ing them fo minutely as I did.” *

At the first appearance of the work which I have juft quoted, the unfortunate author was fubjected to the common fate of travellers,—his publication was eagerly read, it is true, but then it was, generally, regarded more as an agreeable romance, than as the authentic relation of a journey through the diftant and almoft unknown regions, which Mr. Carver has defcribed: by thofe, however, who were more difpofed to favour our author, the authenticity of his relation was not queftioned; he was charged merely of an involuntary propenfity to credulity, and to the marvellous, which has certainly manifested itfelf in fome parts of his travels †.

For my own part, I muft confeß, I have long confidered Mr. Carver as a perfon

* Carver's Travels, edition third, p. 56, 7, & 8.

† See p. 43, 4, & 5, and p. 123, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, & 9.

whose authority may justly be disputed [H]. As my object, however, in this part of my work, is to collect every thing hitherto known on the subject of *American antiquities*, I could not with propriety pass over his observations.

But whether we admit or reject the observations of Mr. Carver, it is certain, that within these few years, similar and other remains of an ancient date have been discovered in different parts of the continent of North America.

Some of these are mentioned by a late writer *, on the *Discovery, Settlement, and present state of Kentucke, &c.* and although it is probable few will subscribe to the opinion which the author seems to have *indirectly* embraced, concerning these remains, yet the facts which he relates are not the less curious and valuable.

“ In the neighbourhood of Lexington [I],
“ says he, the remains of two ancient for-

* Mr. J. Filson.

“ tifications are to be seen, furnished with
 “ ditches and bastions. One of these con-
 “ tains about six acres of land, and the other
 “ nearly three. They are now overgrown
 “ with trees, which, by the number of cir-
 “ cles in the wood, appear to be not less
 “ than one hundred and sixty years old.
 “ Pieces of earthen vessels have also been
 “ ploughed up near Lexington, a manufacture
 “ with which the Indians were never ac-
 “ quainted * [K].

The same author likewise takes notice of
 some sepulchres, filled with human bones,
 which have been discovered near the ancient
 remains just described.

These repositories of the dead are con-
 structed in the following manner:

“ First, on the ground are laid large broad
 “ stones; on these were placed the bodies,
 “ separated from each other by broad stones,
 “ covered with others, which serve as a
 “ basis for the next arrangement of bodies.

* See p. 97 & 8.

“ In this order they are built, without mortar, growing still narrower to the height of a man. * ”

Although the construction of these sepulchres does not exhibit any marks of *magnificence*, or of *laboured art*, yet it is not improbable they are of a considerable antiquity: I am also disposed to think, they are the workmanship of a people differing, in many respects, from the present savage nations of America.

At least the modes of *entombing*, or of *preserving* the dead, which are now prevalent among these nations, are essentially different from that which I have just mentioned [L]; and it is curious to observe, that mankind, *in general*, but, perhaps, more especially, when in a state of *rudeness*, are *peculiarly* tenacious of their religious customs, ceremonies, and superstitions.

We accordingly find that these customs, &c. are not unfrequently preserved *unalter-*

* *The Discovery, Settlement, and present State of Kentucky, &c.* p. 33.

able, through a long series of years; whilst the fashions of dress, of manners, &c. are subject to *perpetual revolutions*.

This remark applies in an eminent degree to the savages of North America: the contagion of European vices soon spread among them,—they readily adopted a few of our arts,—they were even at the labour of acquiring some of our languages; but notwithstanding all the toils, the persuasions, and the menaces of *Jesuits*, they never would be convinced of either the truths, the beauties, or even of the utility of *Christianity* [M].

But to return from this digression: the ARTIFICIAL MOUNTS OR EMINENCES, which are scattered over the WESTERN PARTS of NORTH AMERICA, also deserve our attention.

Some of these eminences are of an amazing magnitude, particularly one near the mouth of a small river, called GRAVE CREEK, which discharges itself into the OHIO, one hundred and six miles below the junction of the ALLEGHANNEY and MONAUNGAHELA [N].

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This stupendous eminence (the dimensions of which, I am sorry I cannot recollect) appears to be composed of huge quantities of earth, which have probably been procured from the adjacent ground; for it is situated on an extensive LEVEL, or, as it is called by the inhabitants of the country, a FLAT, in the neighbourhood of the most IRREGULAR tract of territory, to the west of the APALLACHIAN or ALLEGHANNEY MOUNTAINS [O].

Both on the FLAT and on the eminence trees, of different kinds, are now growing, some of which are from two to four feet and upward in diameter.

No traces of either walls, or of a ditch, are, at present, observable near this remarkable monument of the industry of a former age; yet it is not improbable, that both have once existed there: THEY may have been entirely defaced by the accidents of a very few years; whereas the eminence, from its huge bulk, might have resisted those accidents for many centuries.

Notwithstanding all the inquiries which have been made, the oldest INDIANS are incapable of giving any account of this curious ANTIQUITY : they, indeed, seem to regard it with a species of veneration ; but then it is to be remembered, that many of the productions of NATURE, such as the falls or rapids of a river, a mountain, a tree, or a reptile of uncommon size, nay, even the productions of ART, such as a watch, a compass, and many others, are regarded with a similar superstition [P].

No wonder then, that an appearance so singular, as this eminence, of which I have endeavoured to convey an IMPERFECT idea, should excite in the rude minds of the savages some degree of admiration ; yet it is probable, they are even ignorant, whether it is a production of NATURE or of ART.

Large eminences have also been discovered in the neighbourhood of FORT PANMURE [Q] on the river MISSISSIPPI : they are of different forms and sizes, some of them being nearly square, others oblong,

some octagonal, and others again almost spherical.

In magnitude, however, they are much inferior to that near the mouth of GRAVE CREEK; one of the largest being only about one hundred and fifty feet in length, one hundred in breadth, and thirty-five perpendicular height.

The gentleman,* from whom I received the above short account of the eminences on the MISSISSIPPI, further observes, that, at the time he visited them, trees of more than two feet diameter, were growing on the summits of some of them; and that neither the INDIANS, or WHITE INHABITANTS in their neighbourhood, had any tradition concerning their antiquity,—their use,—or the people, by whom they were constructed.

In some parts of the country, in which these eminences are to be seen, they are

* Mr. James Boyd, of LANCASTER, in PENNSYLVANIA, who politely favoured me with a MSS. journal of his travels, through some parts of the country bordering on the rivers OHIO, MISSISSIPPI, and several of their branches.

called by the inhabitants, INDIAN GRAVES, from a supposition that they are the repositories of immense numbers of the deceased heroes, &c. of the savages.

It is, indeed, true, that a custom of burying their dead in small TUMULI or BARROWS, did formerly, and, perhaps, does still prevail among some of the AMERICAN tribes.—Great numbers of these BARROWS are scattered over different parts of the continent. I have seen a few of them, particularly near FORT PITT, and in the neighbourhood of KUSKUSKE, or more properly, the remains of an INDIAN town, of that name (R).

They are, in general, nearly of a spheroidal form, of about fifteen or twenty feet diameter at the base, and from six to ten or more feet altitude. One of them has been curiously examined by a gentleman of distinction, and of profound philosophical, as well as of political knowledge*: he found it

* Mr. Jefferson. See a valuable work, entitled, NOTES ON THE STATE OF VIRGINIA, WRITTEN IN

it to be the repository of collections of human bones, both of the ADULT, and of the INFANT, lying in the utmost confusion, and in such great numbers, that he conjectured it might contain a thousand skeletons *.

But although the state in which many of these bones were found [S], and other considerations render it highly probable, that the BARROW which Mr. Jefferson examined, had been constructed many years, perhaps a century before, and although in its form † it somewhat resembled some of the eminences

THE YEAR 1781, &c. a new edition of which is now in the press, and will probably be shortly published. It contains a fund of curious and important information concerning the natural, civil, and political state, &c. of VIRGINIA, and of other parts of NORTH AMERICA.

* See p. 173, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, & 9, édition first.

† “ It was of a spheroidical form, of about 40 feet
“ diameter at the base, and had been of about twelve
“ feet altitude, though now reduced by the plough to
“ seven and a half, having been under cultivation about
“ a dozen years. Before this it was covered with trees
“ of twelve inches diameter, and round the base was
“ an excavation of five feet depth and width, from
“ whence the earth had been taken of which the hillock
“ was formed.”

Notes on the State of Virginia, &c. p. 174 & 5.

which I have mentioned, yet, to me, it does not seem at all probable that they also are repositories of the bones of Indians; on the contrary, I think it almost certain, that they have been constructed for some other purpose.

To prove this, or at least to render it something more than a mere assertion, a variety of arguments might easily be adduced; I shall, however, mention only a few of them.

First. None of the more early travellers among the AMERICAN INDIANS, have taken any notice, in their writings, of a practice of entombing the dead in large eminences or mounts, such as that near the entrance of GRAVE CREEK into the OHIO, or those near the MISSISSIPPI, and many others, which have been discovered in different parts of the continent.

Father Louis Hennipin, a French missionary, who resided several years among the natives of CANADA, and many other nations of savages, (but particularly among those which inhabited the vast tract of country that

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is watered by the MISSISSIPPI, and its numerous branches) relates some curious instances of the veneration with which they regarded the bones of their deceased friends * ; but he says nothing of a PRACTICE OF ENTOMBING THE DEAD IN LARGE EMINENCES OR MOUNTS, a circumstance which the good old father would not have passed over in silence, if such a practice had prevailed among them; for he was peculiarly attentive to every circumstance that regarded the religion, or the religious customs of the people whom he visited.

Nor has such a practice been mentioned by any other traveller, either before, or since the time of Hennipin; but I thought proper to mention him in particular, as he was, in fact the discoverer of an extensive country which he has described,—and as he was the first person that has given the world an account of above two hundred tribes of INDIANS, which, before he travelled into

* A new Discovery of a vast Country in America. By L. Hennipin. London, 1698.

AMERICA, were entirely unknown to the EUROPEANS *.

Secondly. From what has been said in a former part of this work †, it is, I think, made more than probable, that if the ancestors of any of the savage tribes, which, at present, inhabit the continent of *North-America*, had ever been in the custom of entombing their dead in large eminences, that custom would have been transmitted to their posterity; or, at least, that there would still be preserved some tradition of such a custom: but I have already observed that not even a remnant of such a tradition does now exist, and if ever the custom did, it is certain that it has been extinct for more than a century.

But, it will perhaps be inquired, are there not vast countries in NORTH AMERICA, with which we are as yet entirely unacquainted? and may not some of these countries be the residence of a people, who among other customs, (materially different from those

* A new Discovery of a vast Country in America. See Preface to vol. II.

† See p. 17 & 18.

of the nations which are known to us) may still preserve that of entombing their dead in large eminences ?

I acknowledge the justness of the question : I am not ignorant what an immensity of AMERICAN territories has hitherto been untrodden by the footsteps of CIVILIZED MAN ; and how many ages must probably elapse, ere even a small portion of it can be accurately investigated.

It would then be presumptuous to assert, that the practice alluded to does no longer exist ; what I have said above has reference to those nations of INDIANS only whose manners, &c. are known to us.

Thirdly, and lastly. These eminences are sometimes found in the neighbourhood of, and enclosed by walls and ditches, a species of workmanship with which none of the AMERICAN nations, hitherto discovered, are acquainted *.

* This is to be understood of the *savage* nations only : for we shall afterwards find, that the *Mexicans* were not unacquainted with the art of *Fortification*.

Having thus endeavoured to shew, that the eminences so frequently mentioned in the course of the preceding pages, are not, as has been supposed, REPOSITORIES OF THE BONES OF INDIAN HEROES, &c. it may, perhaps, be expected, that I should next inquire into their REAL USES ; I shall, however, defer this inquiry to an after part of the work.

From the little attention, which has, as yet, been given to these eminences [T], we are unable to determine with certainty, of what materials they are constructed. I have observed, when speaking of the one near the mouth of GRAVE CREEK, that it is situated on a large FLAT, in the neighbourhood of an IRREGULAR country, and I was led from this circumstance to conjecture, that it was composed of great quantities of earth, which had probably been procured from the adjacent ground.

This conjecture will also apply to the other eminences of which I have made mention ; and it will receive additional strength, when we are informed, that on the summits of some of them, trees of several feet diameter, are now growing.

SECTION II.

THE facts and observations contained in the foregoing section, are, of themselves, sufficiently numerous to serve as DATA, from which we might deduce inferences of some importance in the ancient *History of North America*.

But as in *Philosophy*, so in *History* also, it should be the serious duty of every inquirer to augment the volume of facts, and to indulge as little as possible in the reveries of FANCY and CONJECTURE ;

In an inquiry such as the present, he should more especially guard against indulgences of this nature ; because there is a strange propension in man to dwell on the more obscure and hidden subjects of knowledge :—to EXERCISE his IMAGINATION whilst his JUDGMENT is suffered to remain PASSIVE.

But the facts of which I have already made mention, form only a part of the many others, which could easily be adduced to prove, that there has formerly existed in some of the *higher* (as well as in the *lower*) latitudes [V] of AMERICA, a people who had made advances towards *civilization*, and improvements in *war*, as an art, unknown to the present NATIVE inhabitants of those regions.

It is not, however, my intention, in this place, to inquire into the history of these people: I shall previously take notice of some other ANCIENT REMAINS, and first, of those which have lately been discovered near the banks of the MUSKINGUM.

These remarkable remains are situated about one mile above the junction of that river with the OHIO, and one hundred and sixty miles below FORT PITT (U).

They consist of a number of walls and other elevations, of ditches, &c. together occupying a space of ground about three

hundred perches in length, and from about one hundred and fifty to twenty-five or twenty in breadth.

The TOWN, as it has been called, is a large level, encompassed by walls, nearly in form of a square, the sides of which are from ninety-six to eighty-six perches in length. (See plate I. fig. 1, 2, 3, & 4). These walls are, in general, about ten feet in height, above the level on which they stand, and about twenty feet in diameter at the base, but at the top they are much narrower: they are, at present, overgrown with vegetables of different kinds, and, among others, with trees of several feet diameter.

The CHASMS, or openings in the walls, were probably intended for gateways: they are three in number at each side, besides the smaller openings in the angles.

Within the walls there are three ELEVATIONS, each about six feet in height, with regular ascents to them: it is unnecessary to describe these elevations, as they

are represented in the plan on a scale proportionate to the other parts; and as their forms are better expressed by the drawing than they could be by the most studied description: I shall only observe, that they considerably resemble some of the eminences which have been discovered near the river MISSISSIPPI, and of which I have already given some account.—(See fig. 5, 6, & 7).

Fig. 8, represents a wall, which describes one fourth of a circle,—it is about eight feet in height.

Fig. 9 and 10, represent two walls, which, in some places, are still near thirty feet in height; between them there is a canal, or ditch, forty feet in breadth.

At fig. 11 and 12, there are two walls, of nearly the same height as those of the town.

Fig. 13, 14, 15, and 16, represent four walls, which encompass a level space of ground.

Fig. 17 and 18, represent a continuation of the walls.

The PYRAMID marked 19, is of a conical form, and of fifty-eight feet altitude. It is situated in the centre of a small level, and is encompassed by a wall, the circumference of which is forty-four perches. (See fig. 20). Parallel to the wall there is a ditch, which is fifteen feet in breadth, and five in depth. (See fig. 21). The small opening, or passage to the PYRAMID, represented in the plan, was probably intended for a gateway.

I am equally ignorant of the real composition (if I may so speak) of this, as of the eminences before described : it is, however, probable, that they all owe their bulk principally, if not entirely, to large quantities of earth* : be this at may, the PYRAMID, as well as the eminences and walls, is now covered with GRASSES and other kinds of vegetables.

I am sorry I am unable to give any satisfac-

* See p. 19 and 28.

tory account of the places represented by fig. 22 and 23, as there are no references to them in the drawing, of which the annexed plan is a copy: it is probable, however, that they are elevated grounds; and if so, it would appear that the one at fig. 23 is inclosed by a wall or a ditch, or perhaps by both.

Fig. 24, represents a small elevation of about four feet square, and of nearly the same height.

The places marked **CAVES**, are large pits, some of which are above forty feet in diameter, and about fifteen feet in depth. It is difficult for me to assign any plausible use or purpose for which they could have been formed: this desideratum, as well as several others, may readily be supplied by the ingenuity of my reader.

From the **TUMULI**, or **BARROWS**, called in the plan **BURYING GROUND**, human bones have been taken in considerable numbers; but I have not been able to learn any thing certain concerning the state in which they were found.

Had this circumstance been attended to, it might, perhaps, have somewhat assisted us in our inquiry into the antiquity of these very remarkable remains.

Besides the places already referred to, there are several others represented in the plan, of which I am unable to give any account whatever. These little chasms or imperfections, which have occurred more than once in my account of these ruins, I regret. I may observe, however, as some atonement for them, that the great and most important features of the picture are represented with accuracy, and are, I flatter myself, described with perspicuity as well as with fidelity.

These remains are the most remarkable, of the kind, that have hitherto been discovered in any of the higher latitudes of NORTH AMERICA: on this account, I have been somewhat diffuse in my description of them; and have had them accurately and elegantly engraved from the original plan, which was done from an actual survey.

Remains, somewhat similar to those just described, have been discovered in several other parts of the continent: of two of them I have already spoken in a former part of this work*; and from the account which I there gave, it appears, that they are of a considerable extent, one of them containing “ about six “ acres of land, and the other nearly three.”

Of the others I have received only a verbal description, and having made no written notices of them, I am unwilling to impose on the PUBLIC, what I am sensible would, at best be imperfect, if not erroneous, an account of them from memory.

I shall therefore content myself with observing, that the remains to which I now allude, are situated in the neighbourhood of the river OHIO; the principal and most remarkable, a few miles from FORT PITT, and the other about sixty miles below that place [w].

It is somewhat curious, that no remains of

* See p. 15 and 16,

this kind have ever, so far as I know, been discovered in any part of the extensive country between the APALLACHIAN CHAIN, and the ATLANTIC OCEAN. I do not mean from this to insinuate, that such remains have never existed there: they perhaps do still exist, and many of them may have been utterly defaced by the accidents of time.

But remains of another kind, and in the construction of which, both labour and ingenuity were employed, have, at different times, been discovered in the EASTERN, as well as in the WESTERN parts of NORTH AMERICA.

Mr. Kalm, in the valuable work which I have already quoted, has taken notice of some of these remains. This learned gentleman informs us, that his countrymen the SWEDES, on their first arrival in that part of NORTH AMERICA called NEW JERSEY, in making a settlement on the banks of the river DELAWARE [X], discovered some WELLS "at the depth of twenty feet:" they were inclosed by walls

of BRICK*, a species of manufacture, with which we are certain none of the savage tribes of AMERICA were acquainted, either at the time of their discovery, or in any posterior period of their HISTORY.

The Swedes also discovered broken EARTHEN VESSELS, and entire bricks, in the neighbourhood of the wells just mentioned: they lay some distance beneath the surface of the earth.

From two letters of the Rev. Mr. Peter Miller (President of the SOCIETY of DUNKARDS, at EPHRATA in PENNSYLVANIA) to my father, I learn, that wells similar to those described by Kalm, have been discovered in other parts of the eastern coast of NORTH AMERICA; and that so early as the year 1751, a STONE WALL, "between four and five feet thick," was discovered by some labourers, at the depth of "eight feet under ground," in the neighbourhood of the city of NEW-YORK.

* Travels into North America, by Peter Kalm, vol. ii. p. 31, 32, & 33.

These are the principal facts which I have been able to collect from different sources, both public and private, concerning AMERICAN ANTIQUITIES; and, I flatter myself, they are sufficiently numerous to convince even obstinacy and incredulity, that various parts of the NORTHERN CONTINENT of the NEW WORLD, have formerly been inhabited by a people, who had made considerable advances towards those arts which are almost inseparable from the dawn of CIVIL SOCIETY.

In the Introduction I have endeavoured to convey to the reader an accurate, though a very concise, idea of the state of society among the savage nations of NORTH AMERICA, when they were discovered by the EUROPEANS, in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries: we found them attentive MERELY to the necessaries of life *: these, in a portion of the earth where nature has not been wanting in her usual benevolence and goodness, were easily supplied; and hence the minds of

* See p. ii.

these savages continued PASSIVE, perhaps for ages.

When we consider, therefore, that these nations have not furnished us with one monument of their industry or of their skill, we are naturally led to inquire by whom the several remarkable remains, (of which such frequent mention has been made in the foregoing pages) were constructed?

It was, originally, my intention* to have declined giving any opinion on the subject: as I advanced, however, in the work, I became more confident: I ventured to conjecture, and, at length, I even determined to give my conjecture to the PUBLIC. In doing this, I perhaps forgot for a time that prudent diffidence, which in the eyes of some of my readers might have extenuated many of the errors of this little work. But I am confident that to others, a conjecture, though unsupported by age or by reputation, will not be unacceptable: I shall not, therefore, hesi-

* See p. 11 & 12.

tate to offer one, though I do it with the greatest diffidence.

Previously to this, it may not be altogether improper to take notice of an opinion of some writers, concerning the peopling of America.

S E C T I O N III.

THE honour of having discovered AMERICA prior to Christopher Columbus, in 1492, has been claimed by several different nations. Yet it is certain, that till that great and injured man suggested the happy idea, mankind had reposed in the most extreme ignorance of the existence of a new hemisphere in the West [Y].

Among the number of the nations which have contended for the merit of this important discovery, which produced a revolution in the accumulated knowledge of some thousand years, the inhabitants of a small part of BRITAIN called WALES, have supported their pretensions by an appeal to the page of history, and by other authorities.

One of the historians* of this people informs us, that on the decease of Owen Guy-

* Powell.

neth, king of NORTH WALES, a dispute arose among his sons, “ concerning the succession to his crown,” * and that “ Madoc, “ one of their number, weary of this contention, betook himself to sea in quest of a “ more quiet settlement.” † It is said, “ He “ steered due west, leaving Ireland to the “ north, and arrived in an unknown country, “ which appeared to him so desirable, that he “ returned to Wales, and carried hither several of his adherents and companions.” ‡ After this, neither Madoc or his companions were ever heard of more.

“ But it is to be observed,” says a writer, the elegance of whose observations is exceeded by nothing but their accuracy and their solidity, “ that Powel, on whose testimony the authenticity of this story rests, published his “ history above four centuries from the date “ of the event which he relates. Among a

* History of America, by William Robertson, D. D. &c. See notes and illustrations to vol. 1st, note xvii. p. 324.

† History of America, p. ditto.

‡ History of America, p. ditto.

“ people as rude and as illiterate as the
 “ Welsh at that period, the memory of a
 “ transaction so remote, must have been very
 “ imperfectly preserved, and would require
 “ to be confirmed by some author of greater
 “ credit, and nearer to the æra of Madoc’s
 “ voyage than Powel.” *

Not content with the testimony of their
 historian, and ambitious of dignifying their
 annals, by an event so splendid as the disco-
 very of a new world, they have appealed to
 some verses written by one of their bards, one
 Meredith ap Rhees.

To me, however, it seems that the verses of
 the bard merit less attention than the more se-
 rious page of the historian. It is true, ap Rhees
 lived a considerable time before Powel [Z],
 and from this circumstance it may perhaps be
 thought by some, that he is an authority more
 to be depended on : but the information which
 he has given us is much more imperfect than
 that of Powel ; and it is natural to suppose he

* History of America, vol. 1st, note xvii. p. 324.

could indulge in the propension to fable, which was so prevalent among the bards of his nation.

If we consider but for a moment the state of the EUROPEAN nations, towards the close of the twelfth century, at which period Madoc is said to have performed his voyage, the probability of his having discovered, and planted a colony in, any part of AMERICA, will appear very feeble indeed. It is to be remembered, that at that time the compass was not yet invented; and, that navigation was consequently in the state of infancy only: it is also to be remembered, that the WELSH were among the number of the more uncultivated nations of EUROPE.

There is, perhaps, no one circumstance of so much consequence in ascertaining the affinity which different nations bear to each other, as the similarity of their languages. But a solitary word, although the very same in the refined courts of BRITAIN and of FRANCE, and in the rude society of an ESKIMAUX tribe, is certainly of no importance whatever in eluci-

dating the origin of either the one or the other.

Yet so strange is the infatuation of man, that instances might be adduced, where an inference of some magnitude has been drawn from the similarity of a noun or a verb in two different quarters of the earth.

The favourers of the colonization of a part of AMERICA, by Prince Madoc and his adherents, are a remarkable example of the truth of this observation. By some attention to the language of the natives of the southern continent of AMERICA, it has been observed, that the word PENGUIN (which is also a *Welsh* word) was the name applied to one of the birds peculiar to that region. The authenticity of Powel's relation was now no longer doubted; but it has been demonstrated by the learned and ingenious Mr. Pennant, that no conclusion of consequence can be deduced from this accidental similarity, as in the language of the WELSH, the word Penguin signifies WHITE HEAD, whereas all the birds

of this genus hitherto discovered, have BLACK HEADS.*

The last, though perhaps not the least important objection to the authenticity of the Welsh historian's story, is urged by Principal Robertson. This celebrated historian remarks, that if " the Welsh, towards the
 " close of the twelfth century, had settled in
 " any part of America, some remains of the
 " Christian doctrine and rites must have been
 " found among their descendants, when they
 " were discovered about three hundred years
 " posterior to their migration; a period so
 " short, that, in the course of it, we cannot
 " well suppose that all European ideas and
 " arts would be totally forgotten."†

But it is certain that none of the AMERICAN tribes, when they were first discovered by the EUROPEANS, were in the least acquainted with the benevolent doctrines of CHRIST. The religion of these people was as rude and as

* Philosophical Transactions, vol. lviii. p. 91, &c. and Arctic Zoology.

† History of America, p. 325 and 326.

simple as their manners and their arts : to implore the assistance of a GOD in the image of the sun or moon,—to return him thanks after the defeat of their enemies, or after their success in fishing, and in the chase, was to perform the most serious duties of a system, (if it deserves the name) which required neither the aid of inspiration or of divinity, to form or to support it.

It may, perhaps, be supposed that I have taken an unnecessary trouble in attempting to controvert the opinion of those who imagine, that America was discovered and colonized by Prince Madoc and his countrymen.

But rude and conjectural as this opinion most certainly is, it has of late been embraced by many, in different parts of AMERICA ; and the remains which have been discovered near *Lexington*, those at the river *Muskingum*, and many others, are there considered as the workmanship of the WELSH.

* Those who are acquainted with the antiquities of BRITAIN, the barrows, of which

I made mention in a former part of this work *, will, perhaps, be thought to afford a strong argument in support of Powel's story. These barrows considerably resemble the *British conic tumuli*, many of which have lately been accurately examined by the learned Mr. Douglas †.

But the American barrows, although several of them have been opened with accuracy by Mr. Jefferson, and other ingenious gentlemen, are found to contain bones only [A A], whereas the British “are productive, “when neatly and correctly explored, of “many curious and valuable relicts ‡”.

* See p. 22, 23, & 24.

† *Nenia Britannica*.

‡ Ditto, No. I. p. 1.

SECTION IV.

IT was, as I have already observed, originally my intention to have declined giving any opinion of my own concerning the several AMERICAN remains, the subjects of this work. But having met with the *History of Mexico*, by the learned Abbé Saverio Clavigero, I was imboldened to offer a conjecture, which I think is not a little supported by several facts and observations contained in that valuable work.

Previously, however, to my taking any particular notice of these facts and observations, it may not be improper to observe, that I shall decline any hypothesis on the subject of the very remarkable vestiges which were discovered by Mr. Verandrier to the west of MONTREAL, and which I suppose to be in the neighbourhood of some of the east or north-east sources of the river MISSISSIPPI [B B].

Leaving, therefore, the ingenious reader either to adopt the opinion of the *Jesuits*, or to form one of his own, I will proceed to inquire into the history of the *fortifications*, and of the artificial *mounts* or *eminences*.

The Abbé Clavigero informs us, that the Mexicans “ made use of various kinds of “ fortifications, such as walls and ramparts, “ with their breast-works, palisadoes, ditches, “ and intrenchments.” One of their cities, *QUAUHQUECHOLLAN*, was defended by a strong stone wall, which surrounded the whole city, and which was about twenty feet in height, and twelve feet in breadth; besides the wall, there was a breast-work all round of about three feet in height*.

Many other monuments of the skill of the *MEXICANS*, in the art of fortification were discovered by the *SPANIARDS* when they

* The History of Mexico, collected from Spanish and Mexican historians, &c. translated from the original Italian, by Charles Cullen, Esq. vol. I. p. 372 & 373, and vol. II. p. 128.

conquered the *empire* in the sixteenth century. Some of them are still to be seen in different parts of MEXICO, and they are all incontestible proofs that the inhabitants of that country had, long before the arrival of the SPANIARDS, been engaged in wars, the history of which is irrecoverably lost.

Nor was this art confined to the MEXICANS only. The TLASCALANS, or TEOCHECHEMECAS, a warlike and intrepid race of men, who had been the almost perpetual rivals of the MEXICANS, and who on the arrival of Cortez in MEXICO, assisted him in the destruction of that empire: the TLASCALANS, I say, had built a wall to defend their republic from the incursions of their enemies, which was, perhaps, the most remarkable monument of industry in the NEW WORLD.

This wall, which was constructed of stone and a very strong cement, was eight feet in height, eighteen in thickness, besides the breast-work, and extended six miles in length,

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p. 373.

“ from one mountain to another.” Some remains of it are still to be seen *.

Some of my readers will, perhaps, be surprized, that I should give any credit to these relations of the Abbé Clavigero, as the very popular author of the *Recherches Philosophiques sur les Americains* has thought proper to deny the veracity of Cortez, Bernal Diaz, and others, who affirm their having seen, and carefully examined the TLASCALAN wall in particular. But I have already observed, on the authority of the learned Abbé, that some of the MEXICAN and other fortifications are to be seen even at the present day; and I shall further remark, that Mr. de Paw, the most angry and the most petulant of philosophers, is at continual war with the most respectable authorities on the subject of the natural and civil history of the NEW WORLD,—is perpetually laying down positions of his own construction, the weakness of which is equalled by nothing but by their frivolity and their fallacy.

* The Historo of Mexico, &c. vol. I. p. III. and p. 373.

But to return : The Abbé Clavigero likewise makes frequent mention of edifices, some of which are similar to those which I have described by the name of *artificial mounts or eminences*. It appears from this author that these edifices, which he calls *pyramids*, were formerly very numerous in the country of ANAHUAC, or MEXICO. Torquemada, a learned and laborious writer of the last century, supposes there may have been above forty thousand of them, and Clavigero thinks, if the lesser ones were taken into the account, the whole would far exceed the calculation of Torquemada*.

Many of these *pyramids*, which from their immense magnitude, have survived the annals of the AMERICAN nations, still exist as monuments of the industry, and of the superstition of the people who constructed them.

One of the most remarkable is that of the city of CHOLULA. It is said to have been con-

* The History of Mexico, vol. I. p. 269.

structed by the TOLTECAS, a race of men, who, from the earliest accounts which we have received of them, inhabited a country to the north-west of MEXICO, and who about the year 596 of the CHRISTIAN ÆRA, began their migration to the south. After a journey of more than one hundred years, they arrived in that country which was afterwards the empire of Montezuma : here, however, they remained but for a very few years, when they continued their migration to the west, and there founded a city, the capital of their kingdom, which terminated about the year 1052 of the same æra *.

The accurate dimensions of this pyramid are unknown, but the circumference of its base is about half a mile ; and Clavigero, who ascended it in the year 1744, thinks it is certainly above five hundred feet in height.— It is now “ so covered with earth and bushes, “ that it seems more like a natural eminence, “ than an edifice.” †

* The History of Mexico, vol. I. p. 83, 84, 85, 88, & 89.

† Ditto, vol. I. p. 267 & 268.

Besides the pyramid just mentioned, there are still remaining in the neighbourhood of the city of MEXICO, several other eminences, remarkable for their immense size: the principal of these are two, which were formerly consecrated, the one to the *Sun*, and the other to the *Moon*; the former is eighty-six perches in length, at the base, and twenty-eight in breadth, and the height in proportion; the latter is of the same length, and sixty-three perches in breadth.

Each of these eminences is divided into four bodies, and as many staircases, which, however, cannot at present be traced, “ partly
“ from their ruinous condition, and partly
“ from the great quantity of earth with
“ which they are every where covered.”*

Several small terraces or mounts are scattered round these eminences; they are supposed to have been consecrated to some of the heavenly bodies †.

* The History of Mexico, vol. I. p. 268.

† Ditto.

The pyramids, or more properly the artificial eminences, which are mentioned by Clavigero, are of various forms. Of that at CHOLULA this author has not spoken with his usual minuteness; and I have not been able to procure the works of Betancourt, Boturini, and of others, by whom he informs us it is also noticed: I am, therefore, incapable of conveying to the reader an accurate idea of the form of this stupendous monument of industry, although it certainly approaches somewhat to that of a cone.

But some of these eminences were strictly pyramidical, and were furnished with steps or staircases, by which they were ascended for purposes afterwards to be mentioned. Others again were triangular, some square, some oblong, and others pentagonal, which were in like manner furnished with steps. The inferior part, or base, of each eminence, was larger than the superior*.

* The History of Mexico, vol. II. p. 207.

Writers are divided in opinion concerning the people by whom these eminences were constructed. Betancourt supposes them to have been formed by the MEXICANS. The celebrated Siguenza adopts a different opinion; he thinks they were the work of the OLMECAS, a race of men, whose origin he derives from the ATLANTIC ISLES. This, however, is a mere hypothesis of Siguenza; as we know nothing more of the OLMECAS, than that before they migrated to MEXICO, they inhabited a country circumjacent to the great mountain MALLALCUEJE, from whence they were driven by their enemies. *

A third opinion is adopted by Torquemada, Clavigero, and other authors. They suppose that these eminences were constructed by the TOLTECAS, of whom I have given some account above. This opinion appears the most probable; it is at least certain that the pyramid of CHOLULA was built by these people, and many other of the emi-

* The History of Mexico, vol. I. p. 88, and p. 103 & 104.

nences were formed after the model of that pyramid *.

But we are, and must for ever be ignorant of the time when these eminences were constructed: all we can say on this head is, that their antiquity is very great, perhaps, far beyond the annals of any of the AMERICAN NATIONS.

Superstition, which triumphs over the judgment, and mocks the labours of mankind, gave birth to these remarkable AMERICAN monuments. They served as bases for the *sanctuaries* and the *idols* of a people, who embraced a religion which was founded in the most accursed principles. The pyramid of CHOLULA was consecrated by the TOLTECAS, to a favourite God,—the two in the neighbourhood of the city of MEXICO were, as I have already observed, dedicated the one to the SUN, and the other to the MOON;—and the many others which were scattered throughout the EMPIRE were, perhaps, de-

* The History of Mexico, vol. I. p. 88.

dedicated to other PLANETS, and to other GODS. *

From the similitude of the eminences described by CLAVIGERO, to those which I have mentioned in the former part of my work, I think there can be little doubt that they have been constructed by the same people, and for the same purposes. I am also of opinion, that the very remarkable remains at LEXINGTON, and those at the river MUSKINGUM, are to be attributed to this people likewise.

Indeed, if we consider the eminence near the mouth of GRAVE CREEK, and those on the MISSISSIPPI, as the workmanship of any of the MEXICAN or other nations, we cannot but view the fortifications in the same light; and this for the following reasons:

First. Because they are generally found in the same parts of the country with the

* The History of Mexico, vol. I. p. 267 and 268, and vol. II. p. 206 and 207.

eminences; and in the case of MUSKINGUM, we observe some of these eminences enclosed by the walls.

Secondly. The antiquity of both appears to be nearly the same, as far as we are enabled to judge from the state of the trees with which they are generally covered.

Thirdly and lastly. We shall presently find, that the eminences which abound in some parts of IRELAND, are frequently, in like manner as those at the MUSKINGUM, encompassed by walls.

Having, as I think, rendered it highly probable that the fortifications and eminences, described in the first and second sections of this work, were constructed by the TOLTECAS, or some other MEXICAN nation, I shall next endeavour to shew that similar remains still exist in EUROPE; and from this datum to deduce an inference of no small importance in the early history of NORTH AMERICA.

Previously to this, it may not be improper to take some notice of the opinion of Siguenza, concerning the population of MEXICO. This writer supposes, that the several nations of this empire were the descendants of Nephtuhim, the grand nephew of Noah, who having left their native country, migrated to America, *paulo post Babylo-nicam confusionem*.

The practice of constructing pyramidical and other eminences, which was common in MEXICO, appears to be the principal circumstance which gave rise to the opinion of Siguenza;—he thinks the hint of these eminences was taken from the *Pyramids of Egypt*; but it is unnecessary to attempt a refutation of this feeble, this wretched conjecture, which would not have been mentioned here, were it not the offspring of a celebrated man, and had it not been fostered by the learned Bishop Huet*.

* The History to Mexico, vol. I. p. 475 and 476, and vol. II. p. 206 and 207.

Clavigero, who has pointed out the difference of the EGYPTIAN and MEXICAN pyramids, is of opinion that the latter were “ an original invention of the Toltecas, or “ some other people more ancient than “ them ;” and it seems he was ignorant that similar pyramids are to be seen in other parts of AMERICA, and in Europe likewise *.

In *Ireland*, however, eminences similar to many of the *American* still exist in great numbers. “ They are,” says the ingenious Mr. Twiss, “ in the shape of a cone, gradually “ lessening from a large base, and terminated “ by a flat surface ; their dimensions are “ various ; some are not above twenty feet “ high, and the largest are about a hundred “ and fifty feet perpendicular, and of a proportional circumference. Some are of “ earth, and some of small stones, covered “ with earth †”.

* The History of Mexico, vol. II. p. 207.

† A Tour in Ireland in 1775, &c. p. 97.

These eminences, which are also mentioned by Mr. Boate in his *Natural History of Ireland*, Mr. Twiss informs us, “ were raised
“ by the Danes, from the eighth to the twelfth
“ centuries.”

Nor are the eminences the only remains which are found in IRELAND similar to those of AMERICA. The RATHS or FORTS, which are described by Mr. Boate, bear a great similitude to those near LEXINGTON, near the MUSKINGUM, and to others in different parts of AMERICA. “ They are easily
“ distinguished,” says this writer, “ from the
“ *carns*, by being encompassed with ditches
“ or entrenchments; and are for the most
“ part natural hills fortified. Some of these
“ are small, others contain from fifteen to
“ twenty acres of ground. Some have but
“ one wide ditch at the bottom, others two
“ or three, divided by entrenchments; some
“ are hollowed at the top, others are contrived with a high towering mount, that
“ rises in the centre, much above the fort,
“ commanding all the works below.—The

“ smaller forts are so numerous in the country of Down, that for many miles they stand in sight, and call of one another.”

These forts were built by the Danes ; but I have not been able to learn at what period.

From these circumstances I am induced to think, that the DANES have contributed to the peopling of AMERICA ; and that the TOLTECAS, or whatever nation it may have been, that constructed the eminences and fortifications in that continent, were their descendants. I will not attempt to ascertain the æra at which the DANES migrated to the NEW WORLD. History, so far as I know, is silent on this subject ; but we well know that long before the *Norman Invasion*, these people were remarkable for the boldness and the extent of their voyages : they penetrated into *Iceland*, *Greenland*, and other parts of *Europe*, and nothing could obstruct the daring spirit which actuated them.

Necessity sometimes, but, I believe, much more frequently the love of fame, and the

love of money, have led mankind to migrate from those regions in which they have reposed for centuries. There can be little doubt that one of these motives, or possibly a combination of the three, as well as the accidents attending navigation, were the causes to which AMERICA owes her first inhabitants. We every day, at least, see new reasons to suppose, that the new has been peopled from the old world. Even the warmest favourer of the doctrine of *separate creations* cannot but view the posterity of the *Greenlanders* in the wretched inhabitants of LABRADOR: he cannot but confess the amazing similitude of the *Iroquois* to some of the nations inhabiting the *north-east* parts of ASIA.

If the Danes landed on any part of the continent of AMERICA, it was, probably, the coast of LABRADOR: this they would have, immediately, found to be a country almost destitute of even the supports of life: but an extensive territory lay before them; it required only time to reach those regions of AMERICA, in which nature has been benevolent indeed. Their progress, from the *north* to the *south*, would have been slow;

and centuries might have elapsed before they arrived in the vale of MEXICO. But in their progress, it is natural to suppose, they would have propagated their arts, defended themselves from their enemies, and erected monuments of their superstition.

But it is time to bring this first part of my work to a conclusion :—I submit it to the PUBLIC, with the greatest diffidence ; and as the first effort of a very young man, it may, perhaps, be received with candour :—I know, at least, that I am addressing myself, principally, to a candid and a generous nation.

(68)

A N

A P P E N D I X:

CONTAINING

NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

Note [A], p. 2.

THE customs, the manners, and the virtues of those nations of INDIANS, which have had much intercourse with the EUROPEANS, have undergone a very remarkable revolution. There are, however, many tribes in different parts of AMERICA, which having been only transiently visited from EUROPE, still live in the greatest simplicity and rudeness: and in this state may they long continue, unless, as they become acquainted with our arts, they do not, as they have hitherto done, diminish the volume of their virtues.

Note [B], p. 2.

The quantity of animal food, which was consumed by the different savage tribes of NORTH AMERICA, appears to have been much greater than that of vegetable: hence we find that they

cultivated no other vegetable but the maize, and this only in small quantities: it is true, however, that, in the spring of the year, they collected from their forests various esculent plants.

Note [C], p. 3.

So little attentive were the *Indians* to the preservation of the history of their ancestors, that on the arrival of the *Europeans* in *America*, there were few nations, which could relate, with any tolerable degree of accuracy, the events of the century which had but just elapsed.

Note [D], p. 3.

Vanity is one of the most prominent features in the character of the tribes of NORTH AMERICA: at their treaties, and in their private TALKS, the speaker is the historian of his own achievements; and these he does not fail to relate under every possible advantage of language, and of eloquence,

Note [E], p. 5.

“ It is to be lamented, very much to be lamented,” says Mr. Jefferson, “ that we have suffered so many of the Indian tribes already to extinguish, without our having previously collected and deposited in the records of literature,

“ the general rudiments at least of the languages
 “ they spoke.—Were vocabularies formed of all
 “ the languages spoken in North and South
 “ America, preserving their appellations of the
 “ most common objects in nature, of those which
 “ must be present to every nation barbarous or
 “ civilized, with the inflections of their nouns and
 “ verbs, their principles of regimen and concord,
 “ and these deposited in all the public libraries,
 “ it would furnish opportunities to those skilled in
 “ the languages of the old world, to compare
 “ them with these, now, or at any future time, and
 “ hence to construct the best evidence of the de-
 “ rivation of this part of the human race.”

Notes on the State of Virginia ; written in the year 1781, &c. p. 181 & 182.

Note [F], p. 8.

These tracts of land appear to have been similar
 to those which are scattered in immense numbers
 over different parts of NORTH AMERICA, and are
 called SAVANNAS, or NATURAL MEADOWS. I
 have seen several of them on the *Apalachian moun-*
tains, and between those mountains and LAKE
 ERIE: they are covered with various kinds of
 grasses, which, in a soil very favourable to their
 natures, acquire a rapid and remarkable growth.

Note [G], p. 10.

Tataria is the ancient name of *Tartary*.

Note [H], p. 15

This reflection on the character of Mr. Carver, may, perhaps, be thought to require some explanation. It seems to me very improbable that this gentleman did ever penetrate into the interior parts of NORTH AMERICA, which he has described: he appears to have done little more than to have modernised the uncouth *relations* of Hennipin and of La Hontan; at least, it is impossible to read the travels of these writers, and those of Mr. Carver, without being struck with the remarkable similarity of observation, of incident, and sometimes of language, in almost every page. Besides, had Mr. Carver travelled through the amazing extent of country, of which he has published an account to the world, his work could not but have been the repository of some new and important information: whereas all the more curious or useful observations which it contains, are incontestibly derived from other writers, and principally from those whom I have just mentioned.

This censure of the travels of Mr. Carver does not proceed from a malevolent desire to injure the

memory of an unfortunate countryman: it proceeds from an earnest wish to guard the PUBLIC against an implicit belief in the travels of this gentleman.

Note [I], p. 15.

LEXINGTON is a town in the county of Fayette. and country of Kentucke.

Note [K], p. 16.

That the Indians were unacquainted with the manufacture of earthen vessels, is an error into which Mr. Filson has fallen, in common with many others. When they were first discovered by the *Europeans*, they made use of such vessels, which were fashioned with some degree of neatness. These vessels were formed of different kinds of earth, and were sometimes intermixed with grains of quartz. None of them were glazed.

Travels into North America, by Peter Kalm, vol. II. p. 41 and 42.

Note [L], p. 17.

Almost all the writers on the *Indians* of NORTH-AMERICA have taken notice of their manner of burying and of preserving their dead; to them, therefore, the reader is referred for information on the subject.

Note [M], p. 18.

From the little success which has attended the efforts of the JESUITS in the propagation of the CHRISTIAN doctrines, some of them concluded that the INDIANS partook more of the nature of beasts than of human beings: but it is unnecessary to add, that there are few nations of men who are blessed with more vigorous intellects than the *Indians*; and the little progress of *Christianity* among them is to be attributed to two different causes, first to that reluctance with which the ruder nations of mankind, in particular, forsake the religious customs of their forefathers; and secondly, to the very improper means which the JESUITS took in propagating their doctrines.

Note [N], p. 18.

The rivers ALLEGHANNEY and MONAUNGAHELA unite their waters at FORT PITT, and there assume the name of OHIO.

Note [O], p. 19.

The country here spoken of is cut by immense numbers of drains, but does not consist of high mountains.

Note [P], p. 20.

See the writings of the many travellers among the *North American Indians*, who almost all remark this superstition.

Note [Q], p. 20.

I have not been able to obtain information, from any map which I have examined, concerning the situation of this FORT.

Note [R], p. 22.

Kuskuske, was a large town of the DELAWARE INDIANS. It was situated in a beautiful tract of land, on a branch of BEAVER CREEK, a large water which empties itself into the OHIO, twenty-nine miles below FORT PITT.

Note [S], p. 23.

They were in that state in which bones are frequently found, preserving their forms, but falling to dust on being touched.

Note [T], p. 28.

None of them have, so far as I know, been examined by digging into them, nor had any one before me conjectured, that they were constructed by the same people who built the very remarkable remains at *Muskingum*, and those near *Lexington*.

Note [V], p. 30.

By the higher latitudes of *America*, I mean all those countries which lay to the North of MEXICO, for in that empire, and in the empire of PERU, mankind had made considerable progress in civilization, and in the art of war.

Note [U], p. 30.

FORT PITT is situated at the junction of the rivers ALLEGHANBY and MONAUNGAHELA, and is distant from PHILADELPHIA three hundred and twenty miles.

Note [W], p. 36.

The fort to which I here allude, is situated on a branch of the OHIO, called INDIAN CREEK.

Note [X], p. 37.

Mr. Kalm says, these wells were discovered
“ somewhat below the place where SALEM is now
“ situated.”

Note (Y), p. 42.

There can be little doubt that *America* was discovered long before the age of Columbus; but the discovery was accidental, and it is almost certain that the discoverers never returned home to give any account of the event.

Note [Z], p. 44.

Ap Rhees died A. D. 1477, and Powel lived in the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

Note [A A], p. 49.

Some of the *American* tribes are accustomed to bury a hatchet and a pipe with the deceased warrior.

Note [B B], p. 50.

According to Kalm's account, these remains were discovered about nine hundred French miles west of *Montreal*, from which I conclude they were near some of the sources of the *MISSISSIPPI*.

END OF THE FIRST PART.

E R R A T A.

Page 10, line 7, for *given*, read *declared*.

13, — 19, for *traveller*, read *author*.

47, — 5, for *story*, read *tale*.

48, second line from the bottom, for * *Those*, read *To those*.